Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1.   (Currently Amended) A code combining soft handoff (CCSH) method, comprising:

measuring a strength of respective pilot signals of a plurality of base stations;

if the strength of the respective received pilot signal is higher than a first prescribed value, using a first code pattern of a corresponding base station to decode a coded signal from the corresponding base station, and if the strength of the received pilot signal is lower than the a second prescribed value, dropping a signal of the corresponding base station;

receiving the coded signals from remaining base stations; and

changing a first code pattern for a signal used by one of the remaining base stations to a second code pattern different from the first code pattern if the code patterns for signals used by the remaining base stations are the same,

wherein the change of the code pattern from the first to the second code pattern is performed at a prescribed time to match a code pattern changing time between at least one of the remaining base stations and a mobile terminal,

the code pattern changing time is defined in a time field of a universal handoff

direction message (UHDM) sent from at least one of the remaining base stations to the mobile

terminal.

Claim 2   (Canceled).

Claim 3   (Canceled).

4.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the time field comprises 6 bits to

define 64 code pattern changing times, and the code pattern changing time defined in the time

field is defined in a system time unit.

5.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 4, wherein the system ~~unit~~ time unit is 80ms,

and wherein the time field is a SWAP_ACTION_TIME field.

6.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~5~~ 1, wherein the UHDM further comprises a

swap indicator field, to indicate if the ~~code change is necessary~~ time field is to be used for

swapping from the first code pattern to the second code pattern.

7.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein a determination of whether to

apply the code pattern changing time is defined in a~the UHDM sent from the corresponding

base station to the mobile terminal.

8.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 7, wherein a determination of whether to

apply the code pattern changing time is defined in a USE_SWAP_TIME field of the UHDM.

Claim 9.   (Canceled)

10.   (Previously Presented) A handoff method for a communication system, comprising:

        measuring a strength of pilot signals received from a plurality of base stations;

        if the strength of the received pilot signal is higher than a prescribed value,

allocating a new code pattern to a corresponding base station to receive a signal from the base

station, and if the strength of the received pilot signal is lower than the prescribed value,

dropping a signal of the corresponding base station; and

        if signals are received from three base stations, allocating different code patterns

to the signals from two of the three base stations whose pilot signal strengths are highest among

the signals from the three base stations, and receiving the signals from the two active-state base

stations,

the method further comprising maintaining the code pattern allocated to a first

base station and allocating a code pattern different from the code pattern of the first base station

to a second base station newly determined as in the active state to receive the signal having a

different code from the second base station when the mobile terminal moves to a 3-way handoff

region and receives signals from the two active-state base stations whose pilot signal strength is

high.

11.   (Previously Presented) A handoff method for a communication system, comprising:

measuring a strength of pilot signals received from a plurality of base stations;

if the strength of the received pilot signal is higher than a prescribed value,

allocating a new code pattern to a corresponding base station to receive a signal from the base

station, and if the strength of the received pilot signal is lower than the prescribed value,

dropping a signal of the corresponding base station; and

if signals are received from three base stations, allocating different code patterns

to the signals from two of the three base stations whose pilot signal strengths are highest among

the signals from the three base stations, and receiving the signals from the two active-state base

stations,

wherein if the second base station is not in the active state in the 3-way handoff region,

the a base station controller allocates the different code patterns to the two base stations newly

determined as in the active state to receive the signals from the two active-state base stations.

12.   (Previously Presented) A handoff method for a communication system, comprising:

measuring a strength of pilot signals received from a plurality of base stations;

if the strength of the received pilot signal is higher than a prescribed value, allocating a

new code pattern to a corresponding base station to receive a signal from the base station, and if

the strength of the received pilot signal is lower than the prescribed value, dropping a signal of

the corresponding base station; and

if signals are received from three base stations, allocating different code patterns to the

signals from two of the three base stations whose pilot signal strengths are highest among the

signals from the three base stations, and receiving the signals from the two active-state base

stations,

wherein if a mobile terminal moves from a 2-way handoff region where the mobile

terminal receives the signals from first and second base stations to the 3-way handoff region

where the mobile station receives signals from first, second, and third base stations, and receives

the signals from the two base stations whose pilot signal strengths are high, the mobile terminal

maintains the code pattern allocated to the first base station and a base station controller

allocates a code pattern different from the code pattern of the first base station to the base

station whose pilot signal strength is high to receive the signals from the two active-state base

stations with different codes.

13.   (Previously Presented) A handoff method for a communication system, comprising:

measuring a strength of pilot signals received from a plurality of base stations;

if the strength of the received pilot signal is higher than a prescribed value, allocating a

new code pattern to a corresponding base station to receive a signal from the base station, and if

the strength of the received pilot signal is lower than the prescribed value, dropping a signal of

the corresponding base station; and

if signals are received from three base stations, allocating different code patterns to the

signals from two of the three base stations whose pilot signal strengths are highest among the

signals from the three base stations, and receiving the signals from the two active-state base

stations,

wherein if the mobile terminal, while receiving the signals from the two active-stated base

stations whose pilot signal strength is high in the 3-way handoff region, moves to a 2-way

handoff region, and receives signals from the base stations corresponding to the 2-way handoff

region, the mobile terminal maintains the code pattern allocated to the base station which is

determined to be in the active state and from which the mobile terminal receives the signal, and

a base station controller allocates a code pattern different from the code pattern of the base

station from which the mobile terminal receives the signal to the base station newly determined

as in the active state to receive the signals from the two active-state base stations.

14.   (Previously Presented) A handoff method for a communication system, comprising:

measuring a strength of pilot signals received from a plurality of base stations;

if the strength of the received pilot signal is higher than a prescribed value, allocating a

new code pattern to a corresponding base station to receive a signal from the base station, and if

the strength of the received pilot signal is lower than the prescribed value, dropping a signal of

the corresponding base station; and

if signals are received from three base stations, allocating different code patterns to the

signals from two of the three base stations whose pilot signal strengths are highest among the

signals from the three base stations, and receiving the signals from the two active-state base

stations,

wherein if the pilot signal strength of the subject base station from which the mobile

terminal does not receive the signal becomes higher than the pilot signal strength of the active-

state base station in a state that the mobile terminal receives the signals from the two active-state

base stations whose pilot signal strength is high in the 3-way handoff region, the mobile terminal

determines the subject base station as the new active-state base station to receive the signal

therefrom, drops the signal from the base station having the pilot signal whose strength is lower

than the pilot signal strength of the subject base station, and a base station controller allocates

the different code patterns to the two active-state base stations by allocating the code pattern

allocated to the dropped base station to the subject base station to receive the signals from the

two active-state base stations.

Claim 15-34   (Canceled)

35.   (Currently Amended) A Universal Handoff Direction Message for a code combining soft

handoff, comprising:

        a field for indicating a ~~a~~ time that a mobile station and a base station are to change from a

first puncturing pattern to a second puncturing pattern,

        wherein the field comprises a first predetermined number of bits to define a second

predetermined number of puncturing code pattern changing times, and wherein a puncturing

code pattern changing time defined in the field is defined in ~~a~~ system time ~~unit~~ units,

        the first predetermined number is 6 and the second predetermined number is 64.

Claim 36   (Canceled)

Claim 37   (Canceled)

38.   (Previously Presented) The Message of claim 35, wherein the second puncturing code

pattern is complementary to the first puncturing code pattern.

39.   (Currently Amended) The Message of claim 35, wherein at least one of the first

puncturing code pattern and the second puncturing code pattern determines a type of <u>turbo</u>

encoder.

40.   (Previously Presented) A method for transmitting a Universal Handoff Direction

Message as recited in claim 35, said method including:

        transmitting said Message from a base station to a mobile station when the base

station is going to swap the first puncturing pattern for the second puncturing pattern.

Claims 41-47 (Canceled)

48.   (Currently Amended) A universal handoff direction message sent from at least one of a

plurality of base stations to a mobile station, comprising:

        (a) a field for providing a prescribed time for swapping a first prescribed turbo encoder

type to a second prescribed turbo encoder type; and

(b) a first indicator for indicating that the prescribed time of the field is to be used for

swapping from the first turbo encoder type to the second turbo encoder type,

(c) wherein each base station uses one of the first and second prescribed turbo encoder

types, and the universal handoff direction message is sent during a code combining soft handoff,

wherein the field corresponds to a CCSH_ENCODER_ACTION_TIME field and the first

indicator corresponds to a USE_CCSH_ENCODER_TIME indicator, and the first indicator is

"0" if the field is not used or the first indicator is "1" if the field is used.

49. (Currently Amended) ~~The universal handoff direction message of claim 48~~ A universal

handoff direction message sent from at least one of a plurality of base stations to a mobile

station, comprising:

(a) a field for providing a prescribed time for swapping a first prescribed turbo encoder

type to a second prescribed turbo encoder type; and

(b) a first indicator for indicating that the prescribed time of the field is to be used for

swapping from the first turbo encoder type to the second turbo encoder type,

(c) wherein each base station uses one of the first and second prescribed turbo encoder

types, and the universal handoff direction message is sent during a code combining soft handoff,

wherein the prescribed time is defined in units of a system time, and the system time unit is

80ms.

50. (Currently Amended) The universal handoff direction message of claim 4948, wherein the

prescribed time is defined in system time units, and the system time unit is 80ms.

51. (Currently Amended) The universal handoff direction message of claim 49 or 50, wherein

the field comprises 6 bits for defining 64 different system times units.

52. (Currently Amended) The universal handoff direction message of claim 48, 49, or 50,

wherein the field corresponds to a CCSH_ENCODER_ACTION_TIME field and the first

indicator corresponds to a USE_CCSH_ENCODER_TIME indicator in the universal handoff

direction message, and the first indicator is "0" if the field is not used or the indicator is "1" if

the field is used.

53. (Previously Presented) A code combining soft hand off method comprising:

    (a) receiving signals from first, second and third base stations within a handoff region, at

least one of the first, second or third base stations using a turbo encoder type which is different

from the other base stations;

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(b) sending a pilot strength measurement message when a strength of a pilot signal of a

second base station is below a prescribed value;

(c) receiving a universal handoff direction message;

(d) using the first and third base stations as active base stations; and

(e) sending a message indicating a completion of a handoff,

(f) wherein when the turbo encoder types of the first and third base stations are the same,

changing the turbo encoder type of one of the first and third base stations to be different based

upon information of the universal handoff direction message.

54. (Previously Presented) The code combining method of claim 53, wherein the universal

handoff direction message includes:

(a) a field for providing a prescribed time for swapping to the different turbo encoder

type; and

(b) an indicator for indicating that the prescribed time of the field is to be used for

swapping to the different turbo encoder type, wherein

the prescribed time allows simultaneous swapping to the different turbo encoder type

between the mobile station and one of the first and third base stations.

55. (Previously Presented) The code combining soft handoff method of claim 53 or 54, wherein the different turbo encoder type is a complementary turbo encoder type.

56. (Previously Presented) The code combining soft handoff method of claim 53, wherein the pilot strength measurement message is an extended pilot strength measurement message.

57. (Previously Presented) The code combining soft handoff method of claim 53 or 56, wherein the message is an extended handoff completion message.

58. (Previously Presented) The code combining soft handoff method of claim 55, wherein the complementary turbo encoder type provides a code using a puncturing pattern different from a default turbo encoder type.

59. (Currently Amended) The code combining soft handoff method of 58, wherein a PUNCTURE_PATTERN field or a CCSH_ENCODER_TYPE field provide the information regarding the different puncture code patterns.

60. (Previously Presented) The code combining soft handoff method of claim 54, wherein the prescribed time is defined in units of a system time.

61. (Currently Amended) The code combining soft handoff method ~~of method~~ of claim 60,

wherein the system time unit is 80ms.

62. (Previously Presented) The code combining soft handoff method of claim 60 or 61, wherein

the field comprises 6 bits for defining 64 different system times.

63. (Currently Amended) The code combining soft handoff method of claim 54, 60 or 61,

wherein the field corresponds to a CCSH_ENCODER_ACTION_TIME field and the indicator

corresponds to a USE_CCSH_ENCODER_TIME indicator in the universal handoff direction

message, and the indicator is "0" if the field is not used or the indicator is "1" if the field is used.

64. (Currently Amended) The code combining soft handoff method of claim 59, wherein the

PUNCTURE_PATTERN field or the CCSH_ENCODER_TYPE field is provided in an

extended supplemental channel assignment message.

Claim 65.   (Canceled)

Claim 66.   (Canceled)

Claim 67.   (Canceled)

68.   (Currently Amended) ~~The method of claim 67~~ A method of performing code combining

soft handoff (CCSH) in a communication system in which at least two base stations using a same

puncturing pattern type communicate with a mobile terminal in a handoff region, comprising:

        transmitting a message from at least one of the base stations to a mobile terminal when a

puncturing pattern type of one of the base stations needs to be changed to a different puncturing

pattern type; and

        changing the current puncturing pattern type to the different puncturing pattern type

according to information of the message, wherein the message comprises a changing time field

to inform a time to change to the different puncturing pattern ~~wherein,~~ and ~~the time is based on~~

a changing action time of a turbo encoder is based on the time.

69.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~67~~ 68, wherein the time is set in ~~the unit~~ units

of a system time of 80 ms.

70.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~66~~ 71, wherein the universal handoff

direction message further comprises a puncturing pattern type indicator for indicating a

puncturing pattern type.

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71.   (Currently Amended) ~~The method of claim 65 or 66~~ A method of performing code

combining soft handoff (CCSH) in a communication system in which at least two base stations

using a same puncturing pattern type communicate with a mobile terminal in a handoff region,

comprising:

        transmitting a message from at least one of the base stations to a mobile terminal when a

puncturing pattern type of one of the base stations needs to be changed to a different puncturing

pattern type; and

        changing the current puncturing pattern type to the different puncturing pattern type

according to information of the message, wherein the message is a universal handoff direction

message, and wherein the universal handoff direction message includes:

        (a) a field for providing a prescribed time for swapping to the different puncturing

pattern type; and

        (b) an indicator for indicating that the prescribed time of the field is to be used for

swapping to the different puncturing pattern type~~, wherein~~

~~the prescribed time allows simultaneous swapping to the different puncturing pattern~~

~~type between the mobile station and at least one of the base stations~~.

72.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 71, wherein the field corresponds to a

CCSH_ENCODER_ACTION_TIME field and the indicator corresponds to a

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USE_CCSH_ENCODER TIME indicator in the universal handoff direction message, and the

indicator is "0" if the field is not used or the indicator is "1" if the field is used.

73. (Currently Amended) A subscriber unit of a mobile communication system, comprising:

        means for communicating with a first base station and a second base station using

a puncturing pattern type during soft handoff;

        means for receiving a universal handoff direction message (UHDM) including

information for another puncturing pattern type which will be used by one of the first and ~~the~~

second base stations;

        means for transmitting a handoff complete message to the base stations; and

        means for synchronizing a change of the puncturing pattern type which will be

used by one of the first and the second base stations to another puncturing pattern type at a

prescribed time based on the information of the universal <u>handoff</u> direction ~~handoff~~ message,

<u>wherein the prescribed time is defined in units of a system time and a system time unit is 80 ms</u>.

74. (Currently Amended) The subscribing unit of claim 73, wherein the information includes the

prescribed time, and ~~the prescribed time is based on~~ a changing action time of a turbo encoder <u>is</u>

<u>based on the prescribed time</u>.

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75. (Previously Presented) A code combining soft handoff method, comprising:

(a) receiving signals from a first base station, the first base station having a first encoder output;

(b) sending a pilot strength measurement message when a strength of a pilot signal of a second base station exceeds a prescribed value, wherein the second base station has a second encoder output;

(c) receiving a universal handoff direction message; and

(d) sending a handoff completion message,

(e) wherein when the first and second encoder outputs of the first and second base stations, respectively, are the same, changing the output of the first base station to be different from the output of the second base station based upon information of the universal handoff direction message.

76. (Previously Presented) The code combining soft handoff method of claim 75, wherein the universal handoff direction message includes:

(a) a field for providing a prescribed time for swapping to the different output; and

(b) an indicator for indicating that the prescribed time of the field is to be used for swapping to the different output, wherein

the prescribed time allows simultaneous swapping to the different output between the

mobile station and one of the first and second base stations.

77. (Previously Presented) The code combining soft handoff method of claim 75, wherein the

pilot strength measurement message is an extended pilot strength measurement message.

78. (Previously Presented) The code combining soft handoff method of claim 77, wherein the

handoff completion message is an extended handoff completion message.

79. (Previously Presented) The code combining soft handoff method of claim 76, wherein the

prescribed time is defined in units of a system time.

80. (Currently Amended) The code combining soft handoff method of method of claim 79,

wherein the system time unit is 80ms.

81. (Previously Presented) The code combining soft handoff method of claim 79, wherein the

field comprises 6 bits for defining 64 different system times.

82. (Currently Amended) The code combining soft handoff method of claim 76, wherein the field corresponds to a CCSH_ENCODER_ACTION_TIME field and the indicator corresponds to a USE_CCSH_ENCODER_TIME indicator in the universal handoff direction message, and the indicator is "0" if the field is not used or the indicator is "1" if the field is used.

83. (Currently Amended) The code combining soft handoff method of claim 78, wherein the a PUNCTURE_PATTERN field or the a CCSH_ENCODER_TYPE field is provided in the extended supplemental channel assignment message.

84. (New) The method of claim 71, wherein the prescribed time is defined in units of a system time, and the system time unit is 80ms.

85. (New) The universal handoff direction message of claim 48, further comprising a Pilot_PN field.

86. (New) The universal handoff direction message of claim 49, further comprising a Pilot_PN field.